AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) ~~The composition according to claim 17~~ A composition comprising a protein fragment of the uncoupling protein (UCP) family as an active ingredient, wherein the protein fragment is a synthetic peptide of the following formula:

(AA)n-Pro-X1-X2-X1-X3-Lys-X1-Arg-X4-X5-(AA)n (SEQ ID NO: 10), wherein

X1 = Leu, Thr, or Val,

X2 = Asp, or Glu,

X3 = Ala, or Val,

X4 = Leu, Phe, or Tyr,

X5 = Gln, Ile, or Met,

(AA) is any amino acid, and

n is a whole number ranging from 0 to 2;

and wherein said protein fragment ~~consists of~~ comprises a synthetic peptide selected from the group consisting of:

1) Pro Leu Asp Thr Ala Lys Val Arg Leu Gln (SEQ ID NO: 1),

2) Pro Thr Glu Val Ala Lys Val Arg Phe Gln (SEQ ID NO: 2),

3) Pro Thr Asp Val Ala Lys Val Arg Leu Gln (SEQ ID NO: 3),

4) Pro Thr Glu Val Ala Lys Val Arg Leu Gln (SEQ ID NO: 4),

5) Pro Thr Asp Val Ala Lys Val Arg Phe Gln (SEQ ID NO: 5),

6) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Phe Ile (SEQ ID NO: 6),

7) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Tyr Met (SEQ ID NO: 7),

8) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Phe Met (SEQ ID NO: 8),

and

9) Pro Val Asp Val Val Lys Thr Arg Tyr Ile (SEQ ID NO: 9).

19. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the peptide is Pro-Leu-Asp-Thr-Ala-Lys-Val-Arg-Leu-Gln (SEQ ID NO: 1).

20. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the peptide has at least one functional group protected by a protective group, ~~this~~ the protective group being either an acylation or an acetylation of the amino terminal end, or ~~on~~ an amidation or an esterification of the terminal carboxyl end, or both.

21. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the ~~active agent~~ protein fragment is present, in the composition, in a concentration ranging from approximately 0.05 to 500 ppm compared to the total weight of the final preparation.

22. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the ~~active agent~~ protein fragment is beforehand solubilized in one or more cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable ~~solvents~~ solvent.

23. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the ~~active agent~~ protein fragment is beforehand solubilized in, or fixed on, a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable vector.

24. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 18, wherein said peptide is present in an amount sufficient to treat cellulite and/or orange-peel skin; and/or in order to reduce, eliminate, or prevent excess subcutaneous fat.

25. (previously presented) A cosmetic and/or dermatological and/or pharmaceutical composition comprising, in an acceptable medium, as an active ingredient, at least one said peptide as defined in the composition of claim 18.

26. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 24, wherein said composition ~~takes~~ is in the form of a cosmetic and/or dermatological composition adapted for cutaneous topical administration and includes a cosmetically or

pharmaceutically acceptable medium.

27. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 25, wherein said composition ~~can take~~ is in the form of an aqueous or hydro-alcoholic solution.

28. (withdrawn) A process of cosmetic care to reduce, eliminate, and/or prevent excess subcutaneous fat, and/or intended to fight against cellulite, and/or to fight against the phenomenon of orange-peel skin, said process comprising administering to the surface of the skin of a subject an effective quantity of the composition defined according to claim 25.

29. (withdrawn) A process for treating excess subcutaneous fat, cellulite, or orange-peel skin, comprising administering to the skin of a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the composition according to claim 18.

30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 21, wherein the ~~active agent~~ protein fragment is present, in the composition, in a concentration ranging from approximately 0.1 to 50 ppm compared to the total weight of the final

preparation.

32. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 22, wherein said one or more cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable ~~solvents~~ solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, ethanol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, ethoxylated or propoxylated diglycols, cyclic polyols, vaseline, a vegetable oil, and any mixture of these solvents.

33. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 23, wherein said cosmetically or ~~pharmaceuticalally~~ pharmaceutically acceptable vector comprises a liposome.

34. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 23, wherein the active agent is beforehand absorbed on powdery organic polymers, mineral supports, talcs or bentonites.

35. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 25, wherein said composition ~~can take~~ is in the form of an oil solution or emulsion chosen from oil-in-water emulsions, water-in-oil emulsions, or multiple emulsions.

36. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 25, wherein said composition ~~can take~~ is in the form of

creams, suspensions, or powders, wherein said composition can also be more or less fluid or solid and can take the form of creams, lotions, milks, serums, ointments, gels, pastes, mousse, or sticks.

37. (new) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the protein fragment comprises one or more pseudo-peptide bond.

38. (new) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the protein fragment comprises one or more amino acid in the D and/or L configuration.

39. (new) The composition according to claim 25, wherein the composition further comprises at least one additional active agent.

40. (new) The composition according to claim 39, wherein the at least one additional active agent is capable of promoting lipolysis.

41. (new) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the synthetic peptide is obtained by chemical synthesis.